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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/457)*]

68/185. Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[1] should be held,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Emphasizing the important role played by the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in recognizing that crime prevention and criminal justice, with due regard to the observance of human rights, make a direct contribution to the maintenance of peace and security,

Recognizing the significant contributions of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental

[1] Resolution 46/152, annex.

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organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments to stay fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, and invited its intergovernmental bodies to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, in which it endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, in which it endorsed the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,[3] adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Qatar to act as host to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 2015,

Recalling its resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012, in which it approved the main theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress and decided that the duration of the Thirteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations,

Taking note of the development goals and national commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4]

Recognizing the importance of the substantive contributions that the Thirteenth Congress can make to the United Nations post-2015 development agenda,

Re-emphasizing the importance of integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address, inter alia, social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and public participation,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Thirteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime

[2] See E/CN.15/2007/6, chap. IV.

[3] Resolution 65/230, annex.

[4] Resolution 55/2.

[5] E/CN 15/2013/10.

Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World[3] and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein, taking into account the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of their respective States;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

3. *Decides* to hold the Thirteenth Congress in Doha, from 12 to 19 April 2015, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 11 April 2015;

4. *Also decides* that the high-level segment of the Thirteenth Congress shall be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and Government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback;

5. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, and that the declaration shall contain the major recommendations reflecting and emerging from the deliberations of the high-level segment, as well as the discussion of the agenda items and the workshops;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the draft discussion guide prepared by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Thirteenth Congress;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to finalize the discussion guide in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2014;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice, as well as making a special effort to organize the regional preparatory meeting for European and other States so as to benefit from their inputs;

9. *Urges* Governments to actively participate in the regional preparatory meetings, where appropriate, and invite their representatives to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Congress;

10. *Invites* Governments to undertake preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

11. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress;

12. *Also reiterates its invitation* to Member States to play an active role in the Thirteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Thirteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

14. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops, and encourages States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other entities concerned and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops are well-focused and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas, projects and documents for enhancing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain a strong partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Thirteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended bureau of the Commission;

17. *Again encourages* the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the necessary resources, from within the overall appropriations of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, to support the preparations for and holding of the Thirteenth Congress;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations;

21. *Requests* the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-third session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its twenty-third session.

70th plenary meeting
18 December 2013